

Edits for IQC meeting of March, 2016

UBEROI FOUNDATION INSTITUTE FOR CURRICULUM ADVANCEMENT

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Requested revisions to the History-Social Science Framework Second Field Review Draft
Approved by the Instructional Quality Commission November 20, 2015.

1. p. 214, line 876

After: ...such as cremation, disposal of dead animals and sanitation.

Add: “Regardless of his or her jati, any Hindu could realize oneness with God through personal devotion and meditation. Over the centuries, recognized gurus and religious teachers have come even from the most disadvantaged jatis, such as Nandanar of Tamil Nadu in the 8th century, Chokhamela of Maharashtra in the 14th century and Harichand Thakur of Bengal in the 19th century.”

Justification: As we have noted elsewhere, the discussion of social class in the section on India is unmatched in the discussion of social class of any other society. A student could logically conclude from this intense focus on caste is that only brahmins could attain oneness with God and liberation from rebirth (similar to salvation and attainment of heaven in Christian theology). The purpose of this edit is to correct that misconception.

No Hindu philosophy or tradition holds that spiritual attainment and liberation are available only to brahmins.

There are multiple recent examples of esteemed non-brahmin Hindu religious leaders, including the late Swami Vivekananda, founder of the Ramakrishna Mission and Maharishi Mahesh Yogi, founder of Transcendental Meditation, as well as living saints such as Kerala’s female saint Mata Amritanandamayi Devi, and Pramukh Swami Maharaj, head of the BAPS Swaminarayan Fellowship—each with millions of followers.

This edit will assure that students know that spiritual progress is not related to one’s place, high or low, in Hindu society.